



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/514,423	02/28/2000	Michael John Bryant	P30213US	8728

27684 7590 04/24/2003

HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP  
1000 LOUISIANA  
SUITE 4300  
HOUSTON, TX 77002

EXAMINER
----------

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2839

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/514,423

Applicant(s)

BRYANT ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-20 and 54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-19 and 54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 12-19 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (4,084,875) in view of Saito (5,634,807).

Regarding claim 12, Yamamoto, figure 1, discloses an electrical cable insert (12) for removably electrical connecting a cable having multiple conductors (46) to a mating receptacle (14) having a plurality of projecting pins (80), the insert comprising:

- a plurality of receiving sockets (82) for receiving respective pins on the mating receptacle;
- a sealing gland (26) having a plurality of bores (134), each of the cable conductors passing through a respective one of the bores in the sealing gland;
- means (126, sleeve) for electrical connecting the cable conductors to the respective receiving sockets.

Regarding claim 54, Yamamoto, figure 1, discloses an electrical cable insert (12) for connecting a first plurality of electrical conductors (46) included in a first cable to a respective second plurality of conductors (42) included in a second cable, comprising:

- a housing;

Art Unit: 2839

- a sealing gland (26) within the housing, the sealing gland having a plurality of bores (134), each of the plurality of bores adapted for receiving a respective one of the first plurality of electrical conductors;
- a plurality of pin and socket pairs (82) within the housing for providing an electrical connection (126) location between respective ones of the first plurality of conductors and respective ones of the second plurality of conductors.

Yamamoto discloses the instant claimed invention as described on claims 12 and 54 above except for means for compressing the sealing gland so as to seal the insert from the environment.

Saito, figure 1B, discloses a waterproof structure of connector having a waterproof plug cover (19), which read on means for compressing the sealing gland so as to seal the insert from the environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Yamamoto's electrical cable insert to have the cover as taught by Saito, in order to securely seal a gap between the non-used wire insertion hole of the waterproof and the sealing portion of the plug cover (Saito, column 6, lines 64-67).

Regarding claim 13, it is noted that Saito, figure 1B, discloses the means for compressing the sealing gland comprising a housing (49) having an internal cavity, the sealing gland (17, rubber waterproof plug) fitted within the cavity. A driver (19, waterproof plug cover) secured to the housing and compressing engaging the sealing gland within the housing cavity.

Art Unit: 2839

Regarding claim 14, it is noted that Saito, figure 1B, discloses the housing including a side wall (25), a driver surface including a retaining groove. The driver is secured to the housing by a crimp in the side wall of the housing pressed into the retaining groove in the driver surface (column 4, lines 59-63).

Regarding claim 15, Yamamoto, figure 1, discloses the housing has an end with a plurality of orifices (60) for receiving respective pin on the mating receptacle.

Regarding claim 16, Yamamoto, figure 1, discloses the receiving sockets including projecting pins (122) for connection to respective cable conductors.

Regarding claim 17, Yamamoto, figure 1, discloses the means for electrically connecting the cable conductors to the respective receiving sockets comprising crimp/socket contacts (126, column 4, lines 46-48) which having a contact socket (A, attachment) on one end for sliding onto a receiving socket pin (122) and a deformable portion (B, attachment) on the opposite end for crimping to an end of a respective cable conductor.

Regarding claim 18, Yamamoto, figure 1, discloses a contact header (24) disposed within the housing for maintaining a spaced relationship between the receiving sockets, each of the receiving sockets passing through the contact header.

Regarding claim 19, Yamamoto, figure 1, discloses the receiving sockets include threads (94, flange) engaging the contact header for securing the receiving sockets to the contact header.

Art Unit: 2839

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claim 20 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the reference discloses the sealing gland including nipples on its surface surrounding the opening to each of the bores, the contact header and the driver each having corresponding counterbores in their surface, in combination with the other claimed elements of the embodiments recited.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2839

8. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

TL.  
April 20, 2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tam Le', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thanh-Tam Le.

AU. 2839.